



How to be a Leader

WWW.AMAUACADEMY.COM

MOBILE
FRIENDLY
PDF



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful





Assalamu'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu,

We pray that this message reaches you
in good health and imaan.

On behalf of our AMAU Academy team, we would like
to present to you these compiled notes that we have
prepared to make your journey with us a lot easier.

Our notes are compiled by the AMAU Admin team
and have not been comprehensively checked
by a teacher.

If you find any errors or corrections that need
to be made, kindly inform us via our email
helpdesk@amauacademy.com

May Allah make our paths toward seeking
beneficial knowledge easy and kindle our hearts
with sincerity and gratefulness
towards Him.

Jazakumullahu Khayran



amauofficial

Website **www.amauacademy.com**

Watch Videos

Table of Contents

06

Chapter One

The Concept of Leadership in Islam

10

Chapter Two

The Traits of a Leader

13

Chapter Three

The Behaviours of a Leader

18

Chapter Four

The Relationship between the Leader and Their Followers

23

Chapter Five

The Leader Adapts According to the Situation

Glossary



جل جلاله | Jalla Jalāluhu

Allah the Most Exalted



صلى الله عليه وسلم | Sallāllāhu Alayhi Wa Sallam

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him



عليه السلام | Alayhi Sallam

Peace be upon him



رضي الله عنه | Radiyallāhu 'Anhu

May Allah be pleased with him



رضي الله عنهم | Radiyallāhu 'Anhum

May Allah be pleased with them

The Concept of Leadership in Islam

Chapter One

Leadership as derived from the Quran, the Sunnah, and the actions of our Prophet ﷺ.



Allah ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

- 1
- لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا
- Indeed in the Messenger of Allâh (Muhammad ﷺ) you have a good example to follow for him who hopes for (the Meeting with) Allâh and the Last Day, and remembers Allâh much.**

Surah Al Azhab 21

He (ﷺ) possesses all the qualities of an ideal leader.

Quite often, we are required to take responsibility for a task or lead and inspire others. Taking inspiration from our Prophet ﷺ and implementing his leadership qualities can help us deal with such situations by turning us into effective leaders.

Allah ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

- 2
- وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا
- And those who say: "Our Lord! Bestow on us from our wives and our offspring the comfort of our eyes, and make us leaders of the Muttaqûn (the pious).**

Surah Al Furqan 74

A Leadership shout not be sought

The Prophet ﷺ said:

- 3
- [...] عَنْ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ سَمُرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " يَا عَبْدَ الرَّحْمَنِ لَا تَسْأَلِ الْإِمَارَةَ، فَإِنَّكَ إِن أُعْطِيتَهَا عَنْ مَسْأَلَةٍ وُكِلْتَ إِلَيْهَا، وَإِنْ أُعْطِيتَهَا عَنْ غَيْرِ مَسْأَلَةٍ أُعِنْتَ عَلَيْهَا [...]
- O `Abdur-Rahman! Do not seek to be a ruler, for if you are given authority on your demand then you will be held responsible for it, but if you are given it without asking (for it), then you will be helped (by Allah) in it.**

Narrated `Abdur-Rahman bin Samura | Sahih Al Bukhari 7146

Do not crave or look for opportunities to become a leader. However, if you are given such a position without wanting or asking for it, Allah ﷻ will aid you.

Responsibility is not given to those who crave it. The Prophet ﷺ said:

- 4

[...] **إِنَّا وَاللَّهِ لَا نُؤَيِّي عَلَى هَذَا الْعَمَلِ أَحَدًا سَأَلَهُ وَلَا أَحَدًا حَرَصَ عَلَيْهِ**

[...] By Allah, we do not appoint to this position one who asks for it nor anyone who is covetous for the same.

Sahih Muslim 1733c

A lot of people ask whether this hadith contradicts the action of Yusuf (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) mentioned in the Qur'ān:

- 5

قَالَ أَجْعَلْنِي عَلَى خَزَائِنِ الْأَرْضِ إِنِّي حَفِيظٌ عَلِيمٌ

[Yûsuf (Joseph)] said: "Set me over the store-houses of the land; I will indeed guard them with full knowledge" (as a minister of finance in Egypt).

Surah Yusuf 55

Imam Al-Qurtubi explains this by saying that Yusuf ﷺ asked for that responsibility because he knew there was nobody who could act as justly and righteously in that position as he could.

Likewise, if you find yourself in a situation where there is no one capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of a leadership role except for you, then it is permissible for you to assume that role without indulging in politics and the like.

B

Two core qualities needed to become a leader

- 1

Beneficial Knowledge
- 2

Righteous Actions

Allah ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

- 6

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ [...]

He it is Who has sent His Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) with guidance and the religion of truth (Islâm), that He may make it (Islâm) superior to all religions [...]

Surah Al Fath 28

In this ayah, الهدى means beneficial knowledge and دِينَ الْحَقِّ refers to righteous actions.

The same applies to the statement of Yusuf ﷺ in the ayah quoted above where he says: إِنِّي حَفِيظٌ عَلِيمٌ

Here, the word عَلِيمٌ indicates his knowledge and حَفِيظٌ shows his capability of fulfilling his duty by means of righteous actions.

c Leadership is based on a sense of responsibility and a fear of the One you are answerable to

Allah ﷻ sees everything you do. He will ask you about every responsibility that you are given.

He ﷻ says:

7

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا

And follow not that of which you have no knowledge. Verily! The hearing, the sight, and the heart, of each of those one will be questioned (by Allâh)

Surah Al Isra 36

He ﷻ commands us to fulfil the duties that we are given:

8

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَوْفُوا بِالْعُقُودِ

O you who believe! Fulfil (your) obligations.

Surah Al Ma'idah 1

We should have a strong sense of responsibility and be aware of everything that we are answerable for. The Prophet ﷺ said:

9

أَلَا كُنتُمْ رَاعٍ وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ [...]

Beware. every one of you is a shepherd and every one is answerable with regard to his flock.

Sahih Muslim 1829a

This sense of responsibility should be coupled with the fear of Allah. Thus, we should always be mindful and fearful of Allah ﷻ with regard to our obligations.

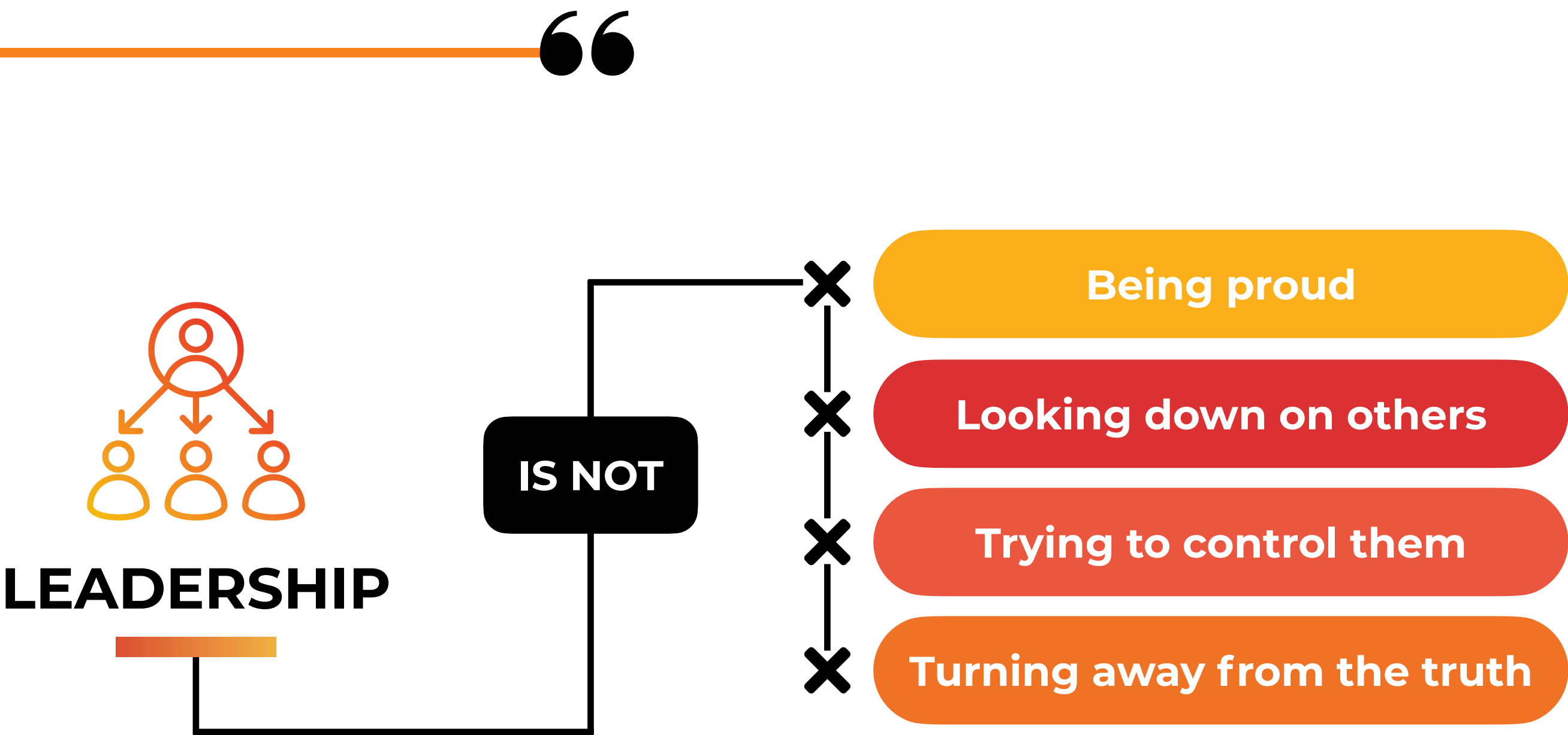
Allah ﷻ says:

10

يَخَافُونَ رَبَّهُمْ مِّنْ فَوْقِهِمْ [...]

They fear their Lord above them [...]

Surah Al Nahl 50



The Traits Of A Leader

Chapter Two

The qualities of the Prophet ﷺ enabled him to carry out the responsibilities that he had such as conveying the message of Islam, judging between people, organising the army affairs, the charity and the war booty that was seized, choosing who should be in charge and so on. He was directly involved in all the responsibilities that he carried out.

Although some people are gifted with traits that facilitate the development of leadership in them, there are characteristics, manners and skills that everyone can pick up and incorporate into their daily lives to become great leaders.

The Prophet ﷺ was gifted with qualities that were unique to him. At the same time, he exhibited a lot of traits that we can learn from.

1 The ability to set an example

A leader should always take the initiative. If he instructs people to perform a task, he should be the first to do it.

Even on the battlefield, the Prophet ﷺ would be the first from the army of Muslims to charge at the enemy.

2 The ability to motivate through words

He (ﷺ) had the ability to inspire people through his words.

He (ﷺ) used to deliver powerful sermons:

1

[...] كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - إِذَا خَطَبَ احْمَرَّتْ عَيْنَاهُ وَعَلَا صَوْتُهُ وَاشْتَدَّ غَضَبُهُ كَأَنَّهُ مُنْذِرُ جَيْشٍ يَقُولُ صَبَّحَكُمْ مَسَاكُمُ [...]

When the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) delivered a sermon, his eyes would turn red, he would raise his voice and he would speak with intensity, as if he were warning of an (enemy) army, saying, 'They will surely attack you in the morning, or they will surely attack you in the evening!'

Sunan Ibn Majah 45

Likewise, a leader or a Khateeb should speak with passion to indicate that his message is important.

He (ﷺ) would inspire and captivate his companions ﷺ to the extent that they would listen to him while being completely still - so much so that one would think that birds might come and sit on their heads

3 The ability to manage and understand emotions

A good leader knows how to control his emotions. On the same note, he is able to understand and recognise the emotions of others.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

2

لَيْسَ الشَّدِيدُ بِالصُّرْعَةِ إِمَّا الشَّدِيدُ الَّذِي يَمْلِكُ نَفْسَهُ عِنْدَ الْغَضَبِ

The strong man is not one who is good at wrestling, but the strong man is one who controls himself in a fit of rage.

Sahih Muslim 2609a

Apart from these, a leader should also be able to build relationships with his followers and settle conflicts between them.

The Behaviours of a Leader

Chapter Three

As far as leadership is concerned, one thing that should be taken into consideration is what a leader does rather than who he is. Let us look at some behaviours an ideal leader should exhibit.

A — One is judged on the basis of one's actions/behaviours

These actions/behaviours are further divided into two:

Task-oriented behaviour

It refers to the ability to set goals, establish plans and organise resources. The Prophet ﷺ is an ideal example of this as he used to organise the military groups and camps during battle, manage and look after the affairs of the Ansaar and the Muhaajireen who were not used to living with each other in the beginning, and so on.

It is to keep a good relationship with those who follow you. It includes being caring, gentle and kind to the people around you.

Relationship-oriented behaviour

Allah ﷻ says:

1

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ [...]

Thus it is due to mercy from Allah that you deal with them gently, and had you been rough, hard-hearted, they would certainly have dispersed from around you.

Surah Ali 'Imran 159

B

One should be farsighted and be able to deal with one's enemies in a way that does not cause problems

The Prophet ﷺ was aware of the long and short-term effects of his decisions and actions. He dealt with his hidden enemies such as the Munaafiqoon very wisely.

2

When Abdullah bin Ubayy said:

لَئِنْ رَجَعْنَا إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ لَيُخْرِجَنَّ الْأَعَزُّ مِنْهَا الْأَذَلَّ

When we would return to Medina the respectable amongst them (the Ansar) would turn away the mean (the emigrants).

Thereupon, Umar said to the Prophet ﷺ:

دَعْنِي أَضْرِبَ عُنُقَ هَذَا الْمُنَافِقِ

Permit me so that I should strike the neck of this hypocrite.

But the Prophet ﷺ said

دَعُهُ لَا يَتَحَدَّثُ النَّاسُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا يَقْتُلُ أَصْحَابَهُ

Leave him, the people may not say that Muhammad kills his companions.

Sahih Muslim 2584b

He (ﷺ) knew that killing Abdullah bin Ubayy would result in the spread of the rumour that he (ﷺ) kills his companions. Ultimately, this would prevent people from accepting Islam. Therefore, he refrained from declaring war on the hypocrites who, while being disbelievers, would pretend to be Muslims.




c — One should know their self

Allah ﷻ says:

- 3 قُلْ هَذِهِ سَبِيلِي أَدْعُو إِلَى اللَّهِ عَلَى بَصِيرَةٍ أَنَا وَمَنِ اتَّبَعَنِي وَسُبْحَنَ اللَّهُ وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ
- Say, ‘This is my way; I invite to Allah with insight*, I and those who follow me. And exalted is Allah, and I am not of those who associate others with Him.’

Surah Yusuf 108

Scholars say that insight here refers to knowing 3 things:

- 1  Oneself
- 2  The people that one is giving dawah to
- 3  The topic/vision that one is speaking about

Therefore, to be an effective leader, you need to know these 3 things well.

d — One should be able to admit that something is not one’s area of expertise

A leader should be aware of things that are not his areas of expertise. He should also have the ability to say to others ‘You know this issue better than me’.

The Prophet ﷺ showed us how to do this:

- 4 [...] النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مَرَّ بِقَوْمٍ يُلَقِّحُونَ فَقَالَ " لَوْ لَمْ تَفْعَلُوا لَصَلَحَ " . قَالَ فَخَرَجَ شَيْصًا فَمَرَّ بِهِمْ فَقَالَ " مَا لِنَخْلِكُمْ " . قَالُوا قُلْتَ كَذًا وَكَذَا قَالَ " أَنْتُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِأَمْرِ دُنْيَاكُمْ " .

Anas reported that Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) happened to pass by the people who had been busy grafting the trees. Thereupon he said: If you were not to do it, it might be good for you. (So they abandoned this practice) and there was a decline in the yield. He (the Holy Prophet) (ﷺ) happened to pass by them (and said): What has gone wrong with your trees? They said: You said so and so. Thereupon he said: You have better knowledge (of a technical skill) in the affairs of the world.

Sahih Muslim 2363

As for matters related to the Deen, nobody from among the people knew them better than him (ﷺ).

E

One should be able to have an exchange of trust between oneself and one's people

A leader should inspire trust among his followers. At the same time, he should trust them. In addition to that, he should know how to deal with the differences between his followers.

F

One should know how to treat people according to their status/position

In Islam, every person's status has been dictated by Allah in the Quran and the Sunnah. As a leader, one should take into consideration the people's statuses and treat them accordingly.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

5

أَنْزِلُوا النَّاسَ مَنَازِلَهُمْ

Treat the people according to their ranks.

Sunan Abi Dawud 4842

G

One should have strong ethical values

A leader must live by ethical values in order to inspire others.

Allah (ﷻ) says:

6

ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاكَ عَلَىٰ شَرِيعَةٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ فَاتَّبِعْهَا وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

Then we have made for you a shari‘a to follow, so follow it, and do not follow the desires of the people that do not know.

Surah Al-Jathiyah 18

The Prophet (ﷺ) was not ruled by desires. He adhered strictly to the moral code that came with the shari‘a.

H One has to be authentic

A good leader is honest and truthful. He is transparent and clear in his dealings with others. He does not conceal things such as his motives from his followers.

We find an example of this in the Prophet ﷺ as he conveyed every single thing from the Deen to the people. He (ﷺ) said:

7

أَلَا هَلْ بَلَّغْتُ . قَالُوا نَعَمْ . قَالَ اللَّهُمَّ اشْهَدْ .

‘Have I not conveyed (the message)?’ They said: ‘Yes.’ He said: ‘O Allah, bear witness.’”

Sunan Ibn Majah 3931

Likewise, he inspired the companions to be truthful.

A man from among the Bedouins came to the Prophet and believed in him and followed him, then he said: "I will emigrate with you." The Prophet told one of his Companions to look after him. During one battle, the Prophet got some prisoners as spoils of war, and he distributed them, giving him (that Bedouin) a share. His Companions gave him what had been allocated to him. He had been looking after some livestock for them, and when he came, they gave him his share. He said: "What is this?" They said: "A share that the Prophet has allocated to you." He took it and brought it to the Prophet and said: "What is this?" He said: "I allocated it to you."

Then, the Bedouin man said:

مَا عَلَى هَذَا اتَّبَعْتُكَ وَلَكِنِّي اتَّبَعْتُكَ عَلَى أَنْ أُرْمَى إِلَى هَا هُنَا - وَأَشَارَ إِلَى حَلْقِهِ بِسَهْمٍ - فَأَمُوتَ فَأَدْخُلَ الْجَنَّةَ.

"It is not for this that I followed you. Rather I followed you so that I might be shot here - and he pointed to his throat - with an arrow and die and enter Paradise."

Thereupon, the Prophet ﷺ said to him:

إِنْ تَصَدَّقِ اللَّهَ يَصْدُقْكَ

"If you are sincere towards Allah, Allah will fulfil your wish."

Sunan an-Nasa'i 1953

In addition to these behaviours, a leader must constantly strive to attain sincerity. He must also hold onto the sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ by following his commands diligently.

The Relationship Between the Leader and Their Followers

Chapter Four

We know that a leader’s effectiveness depends on his relationship with his followers. Let us look at some aspects that strengthen the bond between a leader and his people.

1 Setting a clear vision for one’s followers

It is crucial for a leader to develop a vision and a goal for his followers to subscribe to. This vision should motivate them to work towards achieving a common goal.

The Prophet ﷺ was sent to communicate a sublime vision to this Ummah.

It was the word of Allah ﷻ:

1

[...] فَمَنْ زُخِرَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ [...]

[...] So he who is drawn away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise has attained [his desire] [...]

Surah Ali 'Imran 185

He (ﷺ) would encourage the companions (رضي الله عنهم) to seek what is best:

2

فَإِذَا مَا سَأَلْتُمُ اللَّهَ فَسَلُّوهُ الْفِرْدَوْسَ.

If you ask Allah for anything, ask Him for Al-Firdaus.

Sunan Ibn Majah 4331

The message that Prophet ﷺ brought was clear in terms of both understanding and implementation, i.e., worshipping Allah alone and not associating partners with him. The vision he set for the companions was to strive to attain Jannah and save themselves from Jahannam.

Having a clear goal and vision also helps keep people focused.

2 Showing one’s followers how to achieve their goals

In addition to setting goals for his followers, the leader should show them how to achieve their goals. He should also be able to adjust to his followers' needs.

The Prophet ﷺ gave this Ummah detailed instructions and showed it specific ways to find a place in Jannah and save itself from Jahannam.

He (ﷺ) said:

3

[...] قَدْ تَرَكْتُكُمْ عَلَى الْبَيَضاءِ لَيْلُهَا كَنَهَارِهَا لَا يَزِيغُ عَنْهَا بَعْدِي إِلَّا هَالِكٌ [...]

I am leaving you upon a (path of) brightness whose night is like its day. No one will deviate from it after I am gone but one who is doomed.

Sunan Ibn Majah 43

3 Transforming the lives of the people

This means that a leader should be able to produce a change in his followers.

Allah ﷻ says:

4

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ ۖ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

Indeed, Allah has conferred a great favour upon the believers when He sent among them a Messenger from themselves, reciting to them His verses and purifying them and teaching them the Book and wisdom, although they had been before in manifest error.

Surah Ali 'Imran 164

Allah ﷻ made the Prophet ﷺ the means through which He transformed the Ummah from being in a state of misguidance into a people who stick to the Straight Path.

The transformation of the companions رضي الله عنهم under the guidance of the Prophet ﷺ is what made him the greatest leader to have ever existed. He inspired them to believe in this transformation.

4 Being in service to the people

A leader is not supposed to look down on his followers, control them unjustly, or focus only on serving his interests. His role is to support his people and tend to their needs.

This is how the Prophet ﷺ was, as Allah ﷻ says:

5

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُم بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ

Verily, there has come unto you a Messenger (Muhammad) from among yourselves. It grieves him that you should receive any injury or difficulty. He is anxious over you, for the believers (he is) full of pity, kind, and merciful.

Surah At Tawbah 128

This ayah shows how much he (ﷺ) cared for the believers and that he valued their interests above his personal needs. He would give them everything he had, to the point where he had nothing left with him.

5 Consulting others for advice

In Islam, there has to be only one leader who takes charge of everything concerning the Muslims.

However, Allah has commanded the leader to seek counsel, advice, and opinions from those around him, such as people of knowledge.

Allah ﷻ says:

6

[...] وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ

[...] and consult them in the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah. Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him] [...]

Surah Ali 'Imran 159

In this ayah, Allah ﷻ mentions three things:

- 1

Consulting people (those who can give beneficial advice)
- 2

Making the decision
- 3

Putting one’s trust in Allah

6

Exhibiting positive leadership

A good leader exhibits and promotes positivity. He encourages his people to reach their full potential.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

7

[...] بَشِّرُوا وَلَا تُنْفِرُوا وَيَسِّرُوا وَلَا تُعَسِّرُوا

Give good news and do not make people flee. Make things easy and do not make things difficult.

Sahih Muslim 1732

He (ﷺ) was a very positive person. He would tell people good things and encourage them to do the same. By doing so, he intended to bring people together.

However, positive leadership does not mean that one should not warn others of Allah’s punishment, evil actions, and things that are harmful to them.

7

Practicing transactional leadership

It implies that the leader manages his followers by means of reward and punishment. It also includes the concept of holding people accountable for their performance, and so on.

Allah ﷻ says:

8

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا • وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا

O Prophet, indeed We have sent you as a witness and a bringer of good tidings and a warner. And one who invites to Allah, by His permission, and an illuminating lamp.

Surah Al Azhab 45-46

8 Having cultural intelligence

It implies being able to understand the differences between the people you are responsible for, in addition to speaking to them with what they know.

Allah ﷻ says:

9

خُذِ الْعَفْوَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْعُرْفِ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْجَاهِلِينَ

Take what is given freely, enjoin what is good, and turn away from the ignorant

Surah Al-A'raf 199

In this ayah, وَأْمُرْ بِالْعُرْفِ can also mean “command that which is customary”. Thus, Allah ﷻ instructed His Messenger (ﷺ) to deal with people according to their norms and culture.

It is because the perspective of people is shaped by their culture. A leader should be able to understand and deal with these differences intelligently.

10

When the news reached the Prophet ﷺ that a man from his followers had contracted to marry a woman of the Ansar, he said to him:

أَنْظَرْتُ إِلَيْهَا

The man replied that he did not, upon which the Prophet ﷺ said to him:

فَاذْهَبْ فَانْظُرْ إِلَيْهَا فَإِنَّ فِي أَعْيُنِ الْأَنْصَارِ شَيْئًا

Go and cast a glance at her, for there is something in the eyes of the Ansar.

Sahih Muslim 1424a

He (ﷺ) asked him to go and look at the woman because there was something about the physical features of the Ansar that some of his people did not find attractive. Thus, he (ﷺ) ordered him to look at her and then make the decision to marry her.

The Leader Adapts According to the Situation

Chapter Five

A leader is expected to use wisdom and demonstrate the ability to adapt to a given situation. Let us look at some leadership styles that one can adopt to become a successful leader.

A Situational Leadership

No leadership style works effectively in every situation. A leader has to change his way of leading and managing others depending on the circumstances and the people around him.

Therefore, sometimes it is ideal to give someone direct instructions. Other times, it would be better to coach them or help them make decisions, and so on.

This requires wisdom, which Allah ﷻ gave to the Prophet ﷺ:

1

يُؤْتِي الْحِكْمَةَ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَمَنْ يُؤْتَ الْحِكْمَةَ فَقَدْ أُوتِيَ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا [...]

He grants wisdom to whom He pleases; and whoever is granted wisdom has indeed been granted abundant good [...]

Surah Al-Baqarah 269

When he (ﷺ) saw the family of Yasir being tortured in Makkah, he knew that he could not do anything for them. So, he encouraged and supported them through his words by saying, “Be patient, O family of Yasir. Indeed, your destination is Jannah.”

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) would give clear instructions. For instance, when he sent his companions to Bani Quraiza:

2

قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لَنَا لَمَّا رَجَعَ مِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ " لَا يُصَلِّيَنَّ أَحَدٌ الْعَصْرَ إِلَّا فِي بَنِي قُرَيْظَةَ [...] ”

The Prophet ﷺ said to us when he returned from a Ghazwa (battle): "None of you should offer Asr prayer except at Bani Quraiza [...]"

Sahih al-Bukhari 946

He (ﷺ) would coach his companions and train them to become leaders.

3

When the Prophet ﷺ ordered ‘Alī (عليه السلام) to stay behind and take charge of Madinah instead of joining the Muslims in a battle, ‘Alī (رضي الله عنه) became upset. Then, the Prophet ﷺ said to him:

أَمَّا تَرْضَى أَنْ تَكُونَ مِنِّي بِمَنْزِلَةِ هَارُونَ مِنْ مُوسَى؟

Will you not be pleased from this that you are to me like Aaron was to Moses?

Sahih al-Bukhari 3706

His (ﷺ) adaptive leadership style is evident in the books of Seerah, where we find him dealing with complex situations where different events were taking place often at the same time. Thus, one lesson that we can take from this course is that we do not need to look for tips, advice, or coaching sessions to transform ourselves into effective leaders. We can do so simply by taking lessons from the life of the best man that ever lived.



To ensure your progress,
we recommend that you take
this self evaluation quiz based
on the notes and video
series that you have
just completed.

Attempt Quiz

If you find the course beneficial,
then here's your opportunity to
spread the khair by gifting an
AMAU Academy subscription
to one of your friends
or family.

Buy Gift Card





www.amauacademy.com